

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 NSC-05 EB-07 DODE-00 /070 W

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R 121200Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6316

INFO US MISSION NATO 3161

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

CINCLANT

USLOSACLANT

USDOCOSOUTH

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4058

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJ: U.S. POSITION ON INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP
(IEPG) ACTIVITY

REF: STATE 46987, DTG 272005Z FEB 76

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1. ACCORDING MFA NATO OFFICE, GOI PROPOSING MEETING IEPG

FOR 9 APRIL AT EXPERT LEVEL. ITALIAN EXPECTATION IS THAT ELEVEN COUNTRIES WILL TABLE PROPOSALS OF TECHNICAL INDUSTRIAL (AND THEY ARE HOPEFUL "NON-PHILOSOPHICAL") NATURE IN PREPARATION FOR MORE HIGH-POWERED MEETING LATER THIS SPRING.

2. EMBOFF USED OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE POINTS ON U.S. POSITION CONTAINED REFTEL. INTERLOCUTOR RESPONDED THAT MFA HAD EXPECTATION IEPG EFFORTS COULD LEAD TO SOME POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS (PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF THE FRENCH INVOLVEMENT), BUT HAD SOME OF SAME RESERVATIONS EVIDENT IN OUR EXPOSITION. HE AGREED THAT MILITARY UTILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS WERE IMPORTANT CRITERIA BUT ADDED (THE BY NOW WELL-TUNED) COUNTERPOINT OF ECONOMIC (READ EMPLOYMENT) AND POLITICAL (READ EUROPEAN UNITY) CONSIDERATIONS. NONETHELESS THE MFA WAS ANXIOUS THAT THIS NEW FORUM NOT BECOME IN ANY WAY A MECHANISM OF "DIVISION BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC". VOLPE

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